

FAQ from Dhaka Consular Section

Under what circumstances can I use the Visa Waiver Program and ESTA?

The Visa Waiver Program (VWP) enables nationals of certain countries to travel to the United States for tourism or business for stays of 90 days or less without obtaining a visa. In order to use the VWP as of January 12, must obtain ESTA travel authorization. If you are traveling to the U.S. for purposes other than tourism or business, such as to work or study in the U.S., you need a visa and you are not eligible to use the VWP or ESTA.

Is the ESTA travel authorization a visa?

No. The ESTA travel authorization is not a visa and travelers who are required to have a visa still must have one.

I have a U.S. visa. Do I need ESTA travel authorization?

You do not need to apply for ESTA if you possess a valid visa and will travel to the U.S. on that visa for the purpose it was issued.

My passport was issued overseas. How should I answer the question “Passport Issuing Country” ?

Please choose the country of your nationality, not the physical location where the passport was issued. For example, if you have an Australian passport issued in the US., choose Australia.

How much time does it take for ESTA travel authorization to process my approval?

ESTA will provide almost immediate determinations of eligibility for travel under the VWP. There are three types of responses: Authorization Approved, Authorization Pending, and Travel Not Authorized. Those applicants who receive an approval are then authorized to travel to the U.S. under the VWP. Applicants whose ESTA Applicants are denied will be referred to www.travel.state.gov for information on how to apply for a visa to travel to the U.S. Applicants who receive an Authorization Pending response will need to check the website for updates within 72 hours to receive a final response.

How far in advance of my trip do I need to apply for travel authorization?

Applications may be submitted at any time prior to travel. We recommend that travel authorization applications be submitted as early as possible, as soon as travel is planned. DHS ([Department of Homeland Security](#)) realizes that not all travel is planned in advance, and applications for last-minute or emergency travel will be accommodated.

Is there any fee for ESTA application?

DHS will not collect a fee for ESTA applications. For any further changes, the website will be updated.

Do I ever need to reapply for travel authorization through the ESTA?

Yes, there are instances when a new travel authorization via ESTA would be required. If you have acquired a new passport or have had a change in name, gender, or citizenship, or if the answers to any of the “yes or no” ESTA questions have changed, a new application must be submitted. Also, once the travel authorization expires, a new travel authorization via ESTA is required.

Can a VWP traveler with more than one passport travel to the United States on the passport that was not used when applying for an ESTA?

No. Each VWP traveler must have an approved ESTA for the passport he or she plans to use for travel to the United States. If a traveler acquires a new passport, he or she must submit a new ESTA application for their new passport.

What if my destination addresses or itineraries changes after I obtain ESTA travel authorization?

Applicants may update their destination addresses or itineraries should they change after their ESTA has been approved, although this will not be required.

How can an applicant correct a mistake when completing their ESTA application?

The ESTA Web site will prompt applicants to review the data submitted for the overall application prior to submission. In addition, the ESTA Web site will require the applicant to reaffirm the passport number prior to submission. If an applicant makes a mistake when filling out the passport information, identifying biographic information, or eligibility questions, and he or she realizes the mistake only after having submitted the ESTA application, he or she will need to submit a new ESTA application. Any other mistakes, including e-mail address, telephone number, carrier, flight number, city of embarkation, and address while in the United States may be corrected or updated by using the ESTA update function.

Should a traveler not approved for travel through ESTA™ reapply?

If an ESTA™ application is not approved (“Travel Not Authorized”), a traveler may reapply for an ESTA™ after a period of ten (10) days, but unless the circumstances have changed, the traveler will not qualify for an ESTA™ and will need to apply for a nonimmigrant visa at a U.S. Embassy or Consulate. In addition, reapplying with false information for the purposes of qualifying for an ESTA™ could render an individual inadmissible, and therefore, ineligible for admission, to the U.S.

I will transit the U.S. on my way to a third country. Do I still need ESTA travel authorization?

Yes. If you are transiting without a visa, you are utilizing the VWP and therefore must have ESTA travel authorization as of January 12, 2009.

Can I enter the U.S. if I have ESTA travel authorization?

ESTA travel authorization does not guarantee your entry into the U.S. The CBP (Customs and Border Protection) Officers reserve the right to deny entry to any traveler.

I was denied ESTA travel authorization. Is it possible for me to be admitted entry to the U.S.?

If you have been denied ESTA travel authorization, you may still be eligible to travel to the U.S. by applying for a visa at a U.S. Embassy or Consulate. Please see www.dhaka.usembassy.gov for information on how to apply for a visa.

Can a person other than the traveler apply for ESTA travel authorization on the traveler's behalf?

Yes. Another individual may apply for ESTA travel authorization on the traveler's behalf so long as he or she knows the traveler's information. The person filling out the ESTA form must provide (in English) biographical data on the traveler including name, birth date, and passport information, as well as travel information such as the flight number and destination address in the U.S. The person filling out the online form will also be required to answer eligibility questions regarding communicable diseases, arrests and convictions for certain crimes, and past history of visa revocation or deportation, among others.

Should I print out the ESTA travel authorization and carry it to the airport?

Travelers are not required to submit a copy of the ESTA travel authorization at the airport. However, we recommend you to print it out for your future use. The application number on the ESTA travel authorization is necessary to update or check the status of your previously submitted ESTA travel authorization.